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U.S. envoy expelled, Soviets say

From Wire and Staff Reports

MOSCOW — A Soviet newspaper said yesterday that a U.S. Embassy official, who is originally from Pikesville, had been "compelled" to leave the Soviet Union in February for illegally selling Western consumer goods out of his car trunk at night.

Bruce L. Rosenberg, a second secretary in the embassy economic department, was accused of "speculating" on the black market and distributing anti-Soviet material, said the labor newspaper *Trud*.

Mr. Rosenberg, 29, returned to the United States in February and left the Foreign Service, according to State department spokeswoman Anita Stockman. He is living in Washington but could not be reached for comment yesterday. Mr. Rosenberg, a member of a prominent Pikesville family, is the brother of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg (D, 42d).

An embassy spokesman, who asked not to be identified, said U.S. officials had not read the newspaper article and had no comment on it.

Trud said Mr. Rosenberg was detained by police while selling camera

equipment, video recorders, watches and other items to Soviet citizens out of his car trunk at night in a south-west Moscow construction site. It alleged that he had made a total of \$21,000 through the deals.

He was trapped while setting up a deal on a building site with an underground Soviet dealer, the newspaper said. It added that the black market dealer alleged to be involved was facing criminal charges.

It said Mr. Rosenberg also had "a whole pile of tendentious material aimed at defaming our country... as well as a lot of copies of" an anti-Soviet pamphlet, "which is published with the money of the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies."

The newspaper said Mr. Rosenberg denied all charges when he was taken to a police station. *Trud* said he had been "forced to leave" after the Soviet authorities made a strong protest about his activities to the embassy.

The last known expulsion of an American diplomat from the Soviet Union was in September, 1983, when Leningrad Consul Lon Augustenberg was accused of spying and ordered to leave the country.

A senior embassy official said earlier this month that Ambassador Arthur Hartman had complained to the Soviet Foreign Ministry about alleged harassment of U.S. diplomats. The official did not mention any names, but the embassy has since confirmed reports that a diplomat at the U.S. Consulate in Leningrad was badly beaten up in April.

The Soviet news agency Tass has denied the reports.

Trud said the U.S. Embassy Economic Department had been the source of a series of scandals and named four former attaches who it said had been expelled for espionage.

The cases were made public at the time and on each occasion the embassy refused to comment in line with standard U.S. policy.

In an April, 1983, interview in *The Evening Sun*, Mr. Rosenberg was re-



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BRUCE ROSENBERG
Worked at Embassy in Moscow.

ported to videotape sights around Moscow as a hobby. He said his duties at the embassy included making reports on the economies of countries trading with the Soviet Union.

In the article he described the Soviet Union as "a drab, shabby police state" that he thought of as "a Nineteenth Century country, old-fashioned and patriotic, chauvinistic."

He said that "the variety of goods is limited, and there is little concern with quality in their products, except they make excellent tanks."

Working in the embassy was "like living in a fishbowl," he said. Police are ever-present in the city, he said.

"During the few times I've talked to ordinary people," he said in the article, "I didn't find any dislike for Americans." A Moscow theater, which he sometimes attended with a Soviet friend, was one of the few things he found to praise in Moscow, the article said.

Reporter Elizabeth Hudson and Sun Moscow Bureau chief Antero Pietila contributed to this story.